

Ministry of the Environment
and Climate Change

Ministère de l'Environnement et de
l'Action en matière de changement
climatique



Office of the Minister

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Wendy Wright-Cascaden
Acting Chair, Lake Erie Region Source
Protection Committee
438 Malabar Drive
Waterloo ON N2K2P7

Cliff Evanitski
General Manager, Long Point Region
Conservation Authority
4 Elm Street
Tillsonburg ON N4G 0C4

Michael Columbus
Chair, Long Point Region Conservation
Authority
4 Elm Street
Tillsonburg ON N4G 0C4

Jane Mitchell
Chair, Grand River Conservation
Authority
400 Clyde Road, Box 729
Cambridge ON N1R 5W6

Dear Ms. Wright-Cascaden, Mr. Evanitski, Mr. Columbus and Ms. Mitchell,

It is a pleasure to inform you that the review of the source protection plan for the Long Point source protection area, developed under the Clean Water Act, 2006, has been completed. Pursuant to section 29 of the Clean Water Act, I approve the plan for the Long Point source protection area within the Lake Erie source protection region.

Following today's approval of the plan, in order to allow time to prepare for implementation, the Long Point source protection plan will take effect on July 1, 2016. Please ensure that this date is clearly stated in the plans.

Your community is to be commended on reaching this important milestone. This is an example of the local, inclusive, community-based approach envisioned by the Clean Water Act. The Province has been pleased to support the assessment and development of the source protection plans within the Lake Erie source protection region, with an investment of \$27.11 million since 2004. An additional \$4.2 million was provided within the Lake Erie source protection region under the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program for voluntary measures taken to protect the municipal drinking water sources. I am also pleased to report that eight municipalities within the Long Point source protection area have been provided \$462,979 in implementation funding to help offset some of the start-up costs they will incur as they prepare to implement their responsibilities under the source protection plan.

I appreciate the efforts undertaken by the Lake Erie Region source protection committee, the Grand River source protection authority, the Long Point source protection authority, and all stakeholders to assess and develop plans to protect drinking water sources in your community. Thank you for all your hard work, leadership and commitment.

As part of the approval of the plan, under section 36 of the Clean Water Act, an order must also be given that governs the review of the plan. Pursuant to clauses 36 (1) (c) and (d), and as an initial step in the development of detailed requirements to govern the plan review, the lead source protection authority for the region (Grand River source protection authority) shall prepare and submit a workplan to the ministry. The workplan shall propose the detailed steps for the review of the plan, including which portions of the plan is to be reviewed, the timeframes for each step of the review, the consultation that would be undertaken as part of the review, and rationale for each step. A summary of how the workplan was developed shall also be included. The workplan shall be developed in consultation with the Lake Erie Region source protection committee, participating municipalities of the source protection area, the Long Point source protection authority, and the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.

The development of the workplan must take into consideration any experience that has been gained from implementing the source protection plan, any new monitoring data and information from the first annual progress report on plan implementation (due May 1, 2019). Accordingly, the workplan shall be submitted to the ministry no later than November 30, 2019. Once the workplan is submitted and reviewed by the ministry, and following any further consultation that the ministry considers advisable, a further order can be issued under section 36 that specifies more detailed requirements outlining the content and timeframes that will govern the review of the Long Point source protection plan.

The committee has included a number of policies in the plan that request the province create or modify programs, or introduce new legislation. The province appreciates the advice of the source protection committee on how it may further protect drinking water sources. The province is analysing how to best achieve these kinds of policy objectives across all source protection plans. The results of this analysis will be communicated to the source protection authority when the province reports on its implementation of policies in the plan.

I am pleased to see that steps were taken to include the recently assumed Richmond well supply. While I recognise the municipality is dealing with elevated nitrates through treatment, it is expected the committee will update the plan to include an issues contributing area for nitrate and any associated policies if environmental data shows this is necessary. My expectation is for the source protection committee to review any new monitoring results and share them with the local municipal council to aid in any decision-making regarding this system.

It is my understanding that the committee is currently completing Tier 3 and other technical water quantity work and expects to begin consultation on policies next year. I look forward to receiving this new work and amended plan in December 2016.

With your commitment, significant progress has been made in source protection and the province looks forward to continuing to work with you and all stakeholders to protect drinking water.

Once again, thank you for your work to protect Ontario's source waters, and please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glen Murray', with a large, stylized initial 'G'.

Glen Murray
Minister

- c: Paul Evans, Deputy Minister, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
- Sue Lo, Assistant Deputy Minister, DWMD, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
- Heather Malcolmson, Director, SPPB, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
- Martin Keller, Project Manager, Grand River Source Protection Authority

